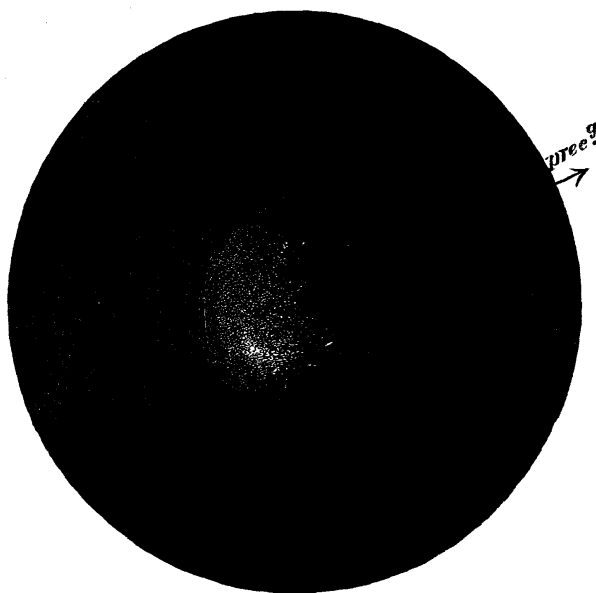


*Note on Encke's Comet.* By the Rev. Henry Cooper Key.

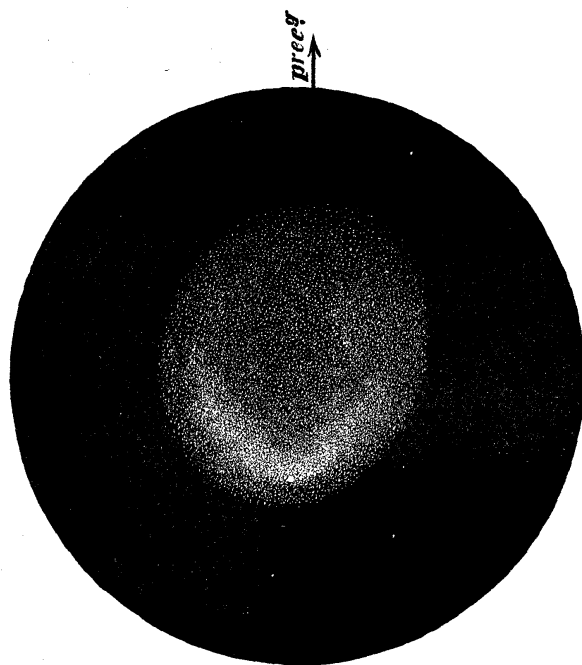
(*Extract from Letter to Dr. Huggins.*)

I send some drawings I made of Encke's comet. The last one taken, on Dec. 3rd, differs slightly from your description as



Encke's Comet. Nov. 5, 1871.

I read it in some periodical. The train following the comet was

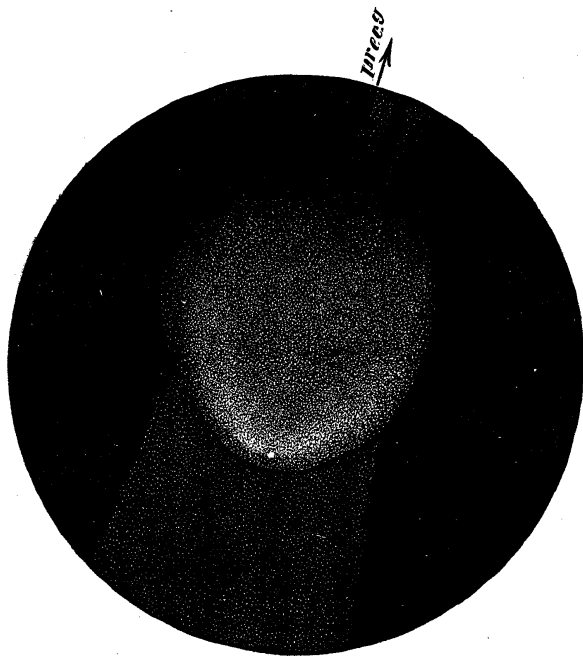


Encke's Comet. Nov. 8, 1871.

quite broad in my telescope, and could not be termed a "ray."  
You will observe two rays on the preceding side; these I have

B

drawn as you see, but I am *not perfectly certain* that the effect was not in my own eye and not a reality. I took every precaution to find out; and at the time (as well as now) felt pretty well convinced that it was no illusion. Four or five times I left the telescope, and, upon returning, there were the rays in exactly the same spot and direction. I feel pretty confident of their reality (they were extremely faint), but, as I say, am not *quite* certain, as I sometimes see dark lines in the field when first going to the telescope. The comet never seemed to me to lose its elliptical form from the first night I saw it, Oct. 20th. I detected a nucleus for the first time on Nov. 7th. The train I mentioned before was much fainter than the main body of the comet, and I was able to trace it to a distance of about 32' from the nucleus. I saw nothing like the drawing of the comet made



Encke's Comet. Dec. 3, 1871.

at Greenwich, of which there is a woodcut in the November number of the *Notices*. In this woodcut the engraver, or some one, appears to have made a strange error as to the comet's direction.\*

The telescope I used was my 18-inch silvered glass Newtonian equatoreal; powers 92 and 142.

*Stretton Rectory, Hereford,*  
*Jan. 1st, 1872.*

\* Mr. Carpenter remarks that the dotted line through the comet was not intended as an indication of motion, but merely to show the inclination of the comet's axis to the equator.